

DR. F.C. FINK HOUSE
ONE MILE EAST OF
PLEASANT PLAINS - ILLINOIS
(SANGAMON COUNTY)

HABS. NO. ILL - 269

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84-PLP.V,

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. ILL-2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
• EDGAR E. LUNDEEN • DISTRICT OFFICER •
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON, ILL

X

DR. F. C. FINK HOUSE
One Mile East of Pleasant Plains, Sangamon County, Illinois

Owner. Dr. F. C. Fink,
Pleasant Plains, Illinois.

Date of Erection. 1835.

Architect. Unknown.

Builder. Unknown.

Present Condition. With the exception of an additional room on the east end of the building, there has been very little departure from the original structure. The double decked porches that were on all sides of the building have been torn away, leaving the joist holes, which are still visible. The interior finish and trim are fairly well preserved, although the exterior brickwork is showing signs of decay.

Number of Stories. Two, with basement.

Materials of Construction. The foundation and exterior walls are of brick masonry, with the north and south exterior faces being built up in Flemish bond. The first floor joists are hand-hewn oak logs, supported in the center of the basement by a brick partition. All studding is 2" x 4" oak, 18 inches on centers. Interior walls are finished with wood lath, plaster and wallpaper. All interior woodwork, including doors, stairway from first to second floor, and mantels for all fireplaces, are made of black walnut. The floors are pine. The rafters are oak, and are covered by 1" x 2" wood sheathing and wood shingles.

Other Existing Records. None.

Additional Data. The Dr. F. C. Fink house, one mile east of Pleasant Plains, Illinois, was built in 1835, and was used as an overflow tavern in connection with the main tavern, which stood one-half mile west of it.

The building was noted for its generous two-story porches and beautiful woodwork of black walnut. The mantels and interior trim shows superior craftsmanship. The solid black walnut doors are hung on hand-~~hammered~~ wrought iron hinges. In the addition on the east, which was probably built soon after the original structure, is the remains of what used to be a Dutch oven. This is now boarded in. The double decked porches that surrounded the building have been torn away, leaving holes in the exterior where the joists were. Dr. F. C. Fink recalls removing these many years ago, but can give no detailed description of them. The doorways on the second floor leading to the porch have been bricked in.

This building was on the stage-coach line between Springfield and Beardstown, and was the center of much social activity. Abraham Lincoln dined here on occasion while passing through, but no proof is offered that he remained for any length of time. It is the only surviving landmark of a very small village consisting of a blacksmith shop, tanyard, store building, schoolhouse, and a few dwellings. Adjoining it was an Indian village and close by is an Indian cemetery.

Reference: Dr. F. C. Fink
Pleasant Plains, Illinois.

Loren Van Bogaert
Author

(Approved) Walter E. Lundeen
District Officer

DW

7/28/57